Renegotiation for Scorpene Submarine Project

2394. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to renegotiate the long pending French Scorpene submarine project; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Negotiations with prospective vendors are conducted until the Government is assured of the best possible terms and conditions that the nation can get.

Project 75 for Submarines

2395. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inordinate delay in the clearance of its crucial plan "Project 75" confirming acquisition and building of submarines was not only causing operational lacuna but also curbing special skill and capabilities for building submarines;

. (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had taken decision to start retiring submarines from 2012; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Government have approved a long term perspective plan for the indigenous construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in submarine building. Project 75 is a part of this plan.

Presently the available submarines are maintained and operated to meet the operational requirements of the Navy. The existing submarines are provided Mid-Life Update (MLU) to extend their service life.

Although, at present, M/s. Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL), has no orders to build new submarines, the submarine building capability of the yard is being maintained through the Mid Life Update of submarines that the yard is tasked to perform from time to time.

(c) and (d) The submarines would become due for decommissioning as and when their service life expires.

Hotels run by ULFA

† 2396. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of seven hotels being run by the terrorist organization of Assam, namely ULFA and if so, certainly this organization must be having its bank accounts in Bangladesh also.if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the said organization is having hotels and bank accounts in Sylhet too, which is adjoining India; and

(c) if so, the initiative taken through Government of Bangladesh to counter these terrorist activities and the success achieved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) and (b) The Government has no specific report to suggest existence of hotels and bank accounts of United Liberation front of Asom (ULFA) in Bangladesh, However, reports indicate existence of Indian Insurgent Groups (NGs) Camps in Bangladesh territory.

(c) The Government has taken up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh at several fora at the highest level.

Loss due to rains in Mumbai and Maharashtra

2397. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HOMEAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the human loss during rains in Mumbai and Maharashtra, separately;

(b) what is the loss of property and business during this period in Mumbai and Maharashtra, separately; and

(c) what is the financial assistance given and assured, separately by Central Government to Maharashtra Government?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.